

SERIES ONE: Applying History to Real-World Problems

MICHAELMAS 2026



Introduction to the Applied History Series

The use of history in policy and diplomacy, inc. the role of analogy, wartime tropes and official histories.

Lord Peter Ricketts (former FCO Permanent Under-Secretary); Professor Patrick Salmon (Chief Historian, FCDO)

Tuesday
20 OCT

1330-1500



Intelligence, defence and security

How history provides context for intelligence collection, analysis and defence planning.

Sir James Everard (former Deputy SACEUR, NATO), Tim Dowse CMG (former Chief of Assessments Staff, JIC)

Tuesday
10 NOV

1330-1500



Historical narrative as a tool of statecraft

How states use foundational myths and national narratives for political purposes.

Sir Ivor Roberts (diplomat, former President of Trinity), Catherine Royle (Principal of Somerville, former diplomat)

Friday
20 NOV

1700-1900

HILARY 2027



Information, disinformation and propaganda

How disinformation, misinformation and propaganda have influenced policy from Plato to AI.

Sir David Omand (former Director, GCHQ), Prof Ciaran Martin (former CEO, NCSC), Baron Waldegrave (former minister)

Tuesday
26 JAN

1330-1500



Nuclear policy, deterrence and disarmament

How narratives around the use of nuclear arms have evolved and shaped the conduct of foreign policies and conflicts.

Professor Sir Lawrence Freedman (Emeritus Professor of War Studies, KCL), Andrew Barlow (ex-FCDO)

Tuesday
16 FEB

1330-1500



The role of reviews and enquiries

Exploring how reviews and enquiries (Chilcot, Butler, etc.) make history useful for future policy-makers.

Lord Butler (Chair of Butler Review), Margaret Aldred (ex-MOD, Secretary to Chilcot Enquiry)

Friday
26 FEB

1700-1900